

Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism

Volunteer Recognition For Maryland Citizens

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism works with a number of partners to provide opportunities for nonprofits, businesses, and schools to honor the contributions of local volunteers. From state-wide events, like the Governor's Volunteer Award Ceremony during National Volunteer Week, to individual service certificates awarded to citizens, there are many ways to recognize the extraordinary work of volunteers across Maryland.

Governor's Citation

You may request one or more Governor's Citations to honor the contributions of a particular volunteer, a group of volunteers, or an agency or nonprofit organization that works with volunteers. Each Citation includes a tailored description of the contribution of the recipient(s) and official recognition from the Governor; in general, Citations are presented as part of a ceremony or event (e.g. volunteer recognition banquet).

To request a Citation, submit a description of the recipient's full name and accomplishments, the date, time, and location of the recognition event (if applicable), and an overview of the organization requesting the Citation. The Citation(s) will need to be picked up at the State House in Annapolis or mailed to you. Be sure to include your full mailing address—and note that the Citations are approximately 12 x 16 inches in size. Submit this information via email to governor@gov.state.md.us.

Deadline for your request: If you plan to present the Citation at a ceremony or event, your request must be received at least one month prior to the event.

Governor's Proclamation

You may request a Proclamation from the Governor to call attention to a particular period of time (e.g. National Volunteer Week) or raise awareness about a specific issue or cause for your agency or volunteers. Proclamations are produced for regional or state-wide events and issued in conjunction with programs sponsored by organizations, schools, and other institutions.

To request a Proclamation, submit a description of the period of time or issue to be recognized, the date, time, and location of the program, and an overview of the organization requesting the Proclamation. The Proclamation(s) will need to be picked up at the State House in Annapolis or mailed to you. Be sure to include your full mailing address—and note that the Proclamations are approximately 12 x 16 inches in size. Submit this information via email to Donna Shuman, Governor's Office, at dshuman@gov.state.md.us.

Deadline for your request: Your request must be received at least one month prior to the event.

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Governor's Volunteer Service Certificates of Appreciation

You may request the Governor's Volunteer Service Certificates of Appreciation to recognize Maryland citizens for their efforts in volunteer service from the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism.

To request one or more certificates, provide the time, date, and location of your recognition event (if applicable), an overview of the organization submitting the request, and the names of the recipients in the following format:

- First and last name only of each recipient – use appropriate upper and lower case.
- For a list of recipients, provide the information in an Excel or Access data file.
- Be sure to carefully proof the names before you submit them.

Submit this information to Jeanne Hegarty, Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, at jhegarty@gosv.state.md.us.

Deadline for your request: Your request must be received at least two weeks (10 business days) prior to the date on which you plan to distribute the certificates.

Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards is an annual recognition event for extraordinary volunteers across Maryland. The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism accepts nominations in March in the following categories: Youth, Youth Group, Individual, Public Safety & Emergency Response, Group, Business Group, Faith-based Group, State Government, National Service, Senior, Senior Group, Lifetime Achievement, and Special Recognition. A selection panel of nonprofit and business professionals, volunteers, and AmeriCorps members and alumni convenes to review all nominations. The Awards Ceremony typically occurs during National Volunteer Week (the third week in April) in Annapolis; all nominees and nominators are invited, and each winner is presented with an award.

Nominations for the 2010 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards are due on March 1, 2010. Contact Jeanne Hegarty, Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, at jhegarty@gosv.state.md.us, for additional information.

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Governor's Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Maryland State Fair

Each year, the Governor honors Maryland's 1.2 million volunteers with a special invitation to enjoy the Maryland State Fair. Typically held at the end of August, the Governor's Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Maryland State Fair includes a discounted entrance fee for up to five volunteers (per invitation) and discounts on rides and food.

To request invitations for you and your volunteers to the Governor's Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Maryland State Fair on August 30, 2009, email Jeanne Hegarty, Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, at jhegarty@gosv.state.md.us. Supplies are limited, and invitations are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. You may request up to 500 invitations at one time; be sure to include your full name and mailing address since invitations are distributed via regular mail. Larger requests may be accommodated; contact Jeanne Hegarty to discuss availability and delivery/pick up options.

Baltimore Ravens Honor Rows Program

In partnership with the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, the Baltimore Ravens will honor a youth group or youth-serving organization for outstanding community service during each Ravens game at M&T Bank Stadium throughout the 2009 regular season.

Honorees will be selected by a panel of youth service leaders with the assistance of the Baltimore Ravens, M&T Bank staff, and the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism. Honorees will receive:

- Up to 100 tickets per group for youth and chaperones to attend a Baltimore Ravens game at M&T Bank Stadium (groups must provide their own chaperones and transportation)
- "Honor Rows" T-shirts (to be worn during the game)
- Official in-game recognition of honorees on the SMARTVISION screen
- Recognition on WBFF-Fox 45 and The CW Baltimore public service announcements

For more information on the Honor Rows program, contact Melanie LeGrande, Baltimore Ravens, at 410-701-4156.